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(54) **SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE HAVING HYBRID CAPACITORS**

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H01L 27/02 (2006.01)
H01L 27/108 (2006.01)
H01L 49/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H01L 27/10805** (2013.01); **H01L 27/1085** (2013.01); **H01L 28/82** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC H01L 27/10855; H01L 29/66795; H01L 27/10823; H01L 27/10876; H01L 29/4236; H01L 21/76897; H01L 27/10885
See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — Brian Turner

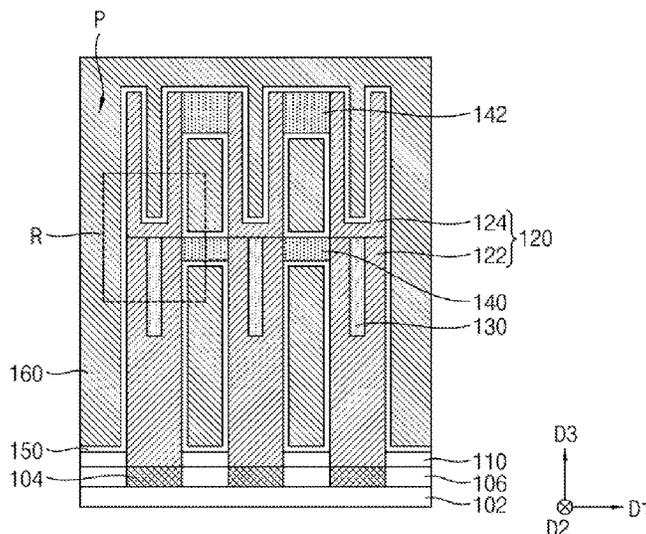
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A semiconductor device includes a plurality of lower electrode structures disposed on a substrate, and a supporter pattern disposed between pairs of lower electrode structures of the plurality of lower electrode structures. The semiconductor device further includes a capacitor dielectric layer disposed on surfaces of each of the plurality of lower electrode structures and the supporter pattern, and an upper electrode disposed on the capacitor dielectric layer. The plurality of lower electrode structures includes a first lower electrode and a second lower electrode disposed on the first lower electrode and having a cylindrical shape. The first lower electrode has a pillar shape. The first lower electrode includes an insulating core. The insulating core is disposed in the first lower electrode. An outer side surface of the first lower electrode and an outer side surface of the second lower electrode are coplanar.

20 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets

100



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FIG. 1

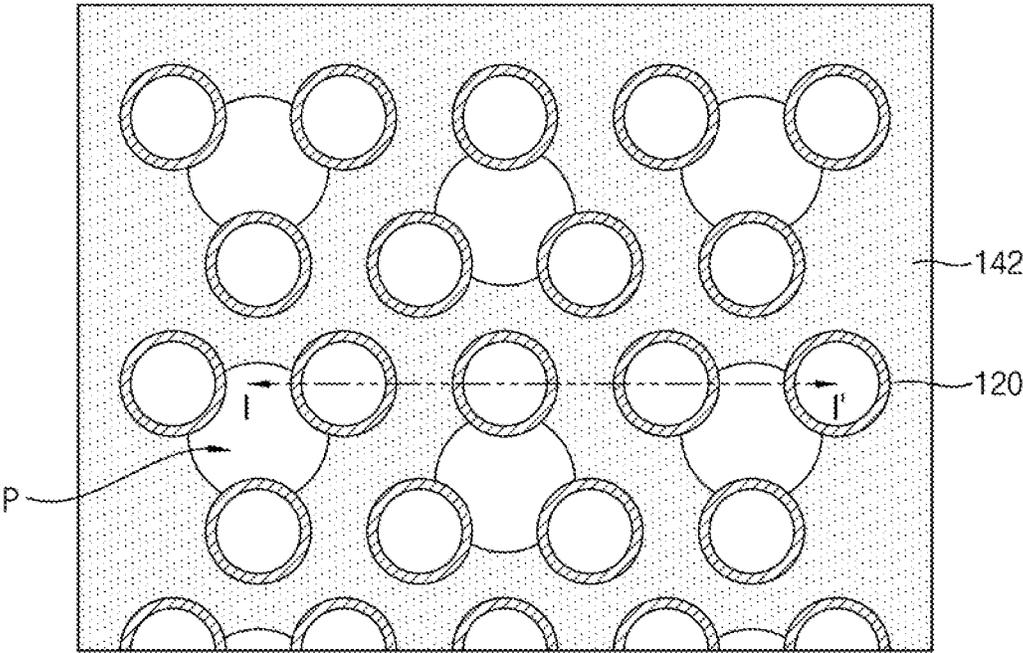


FIG. 2

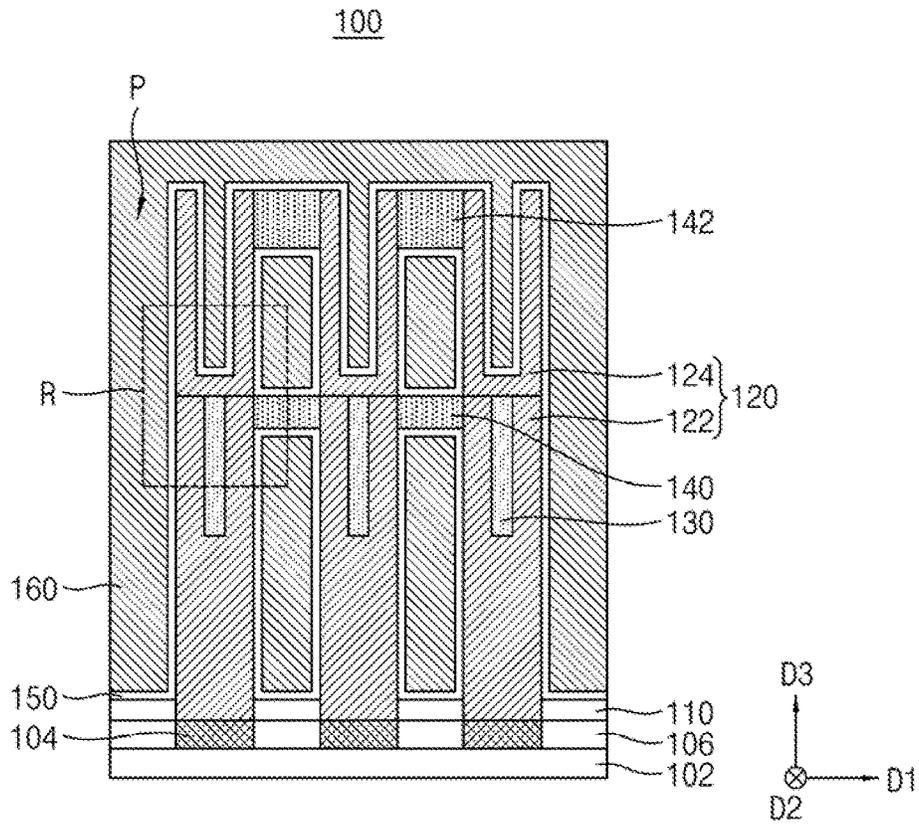


FIG. 3

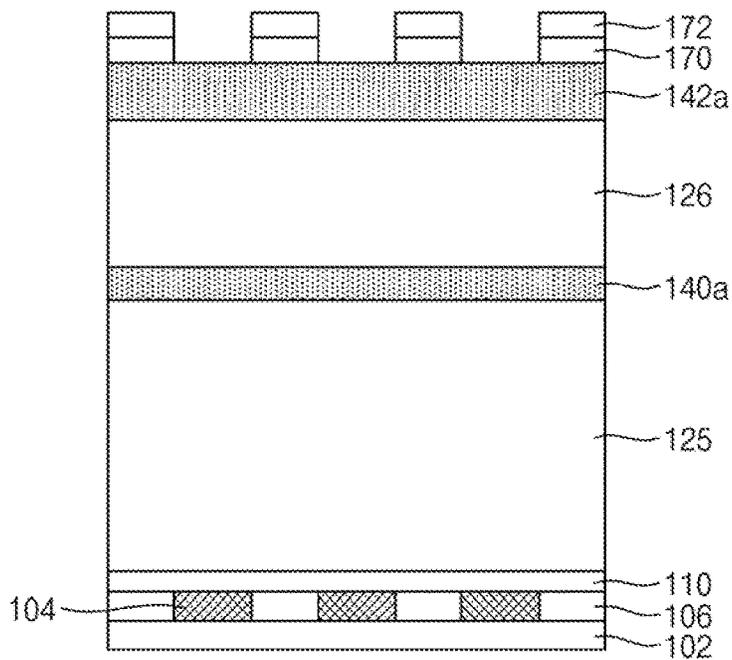


FIG. 4

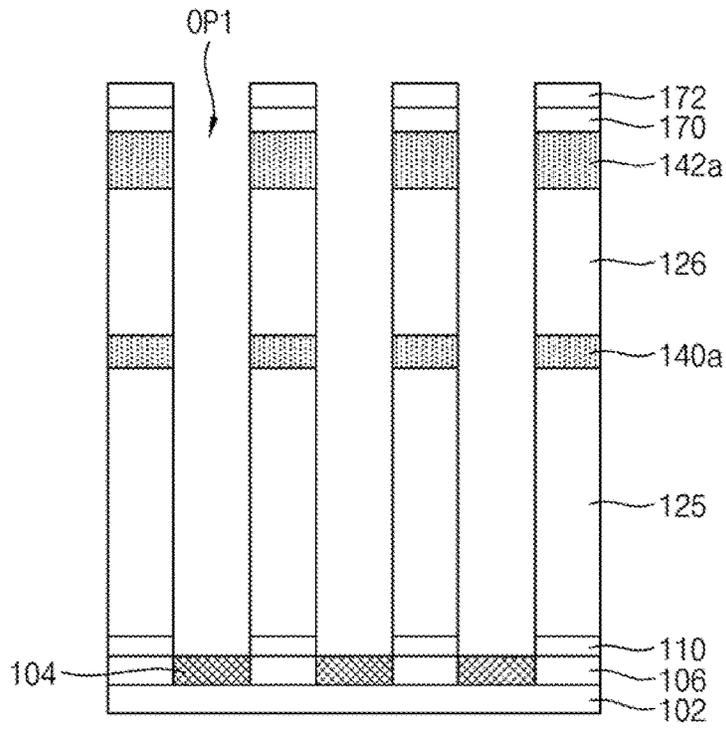


FIG. 5

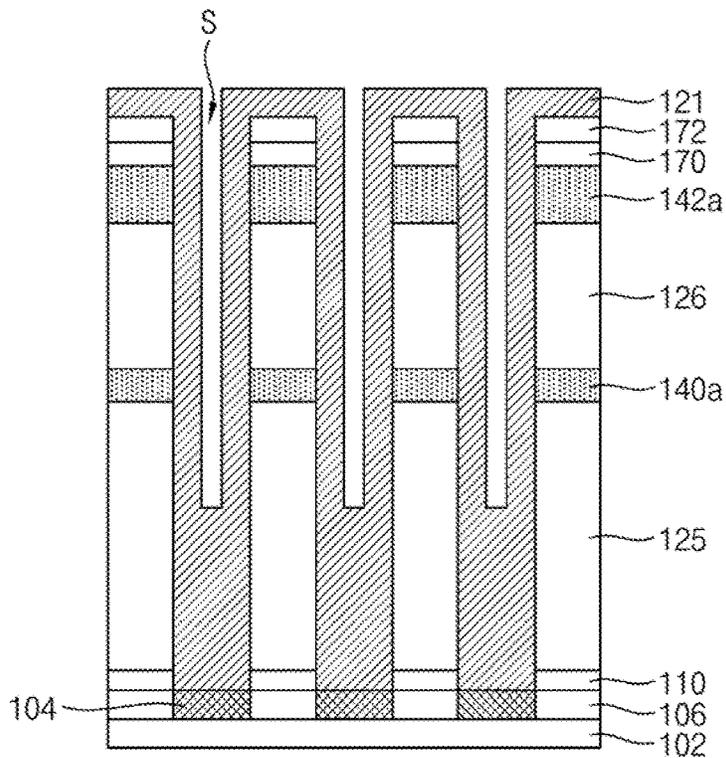


FIG. 6

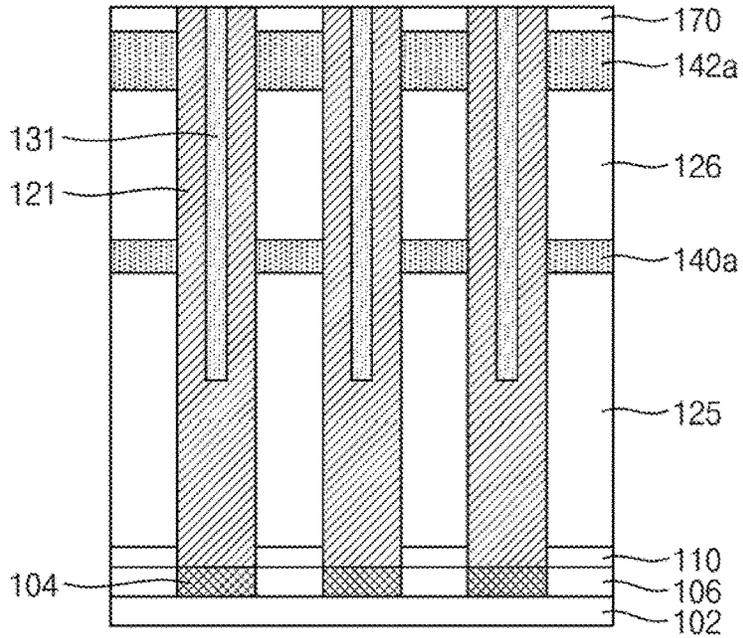


FIG. 7

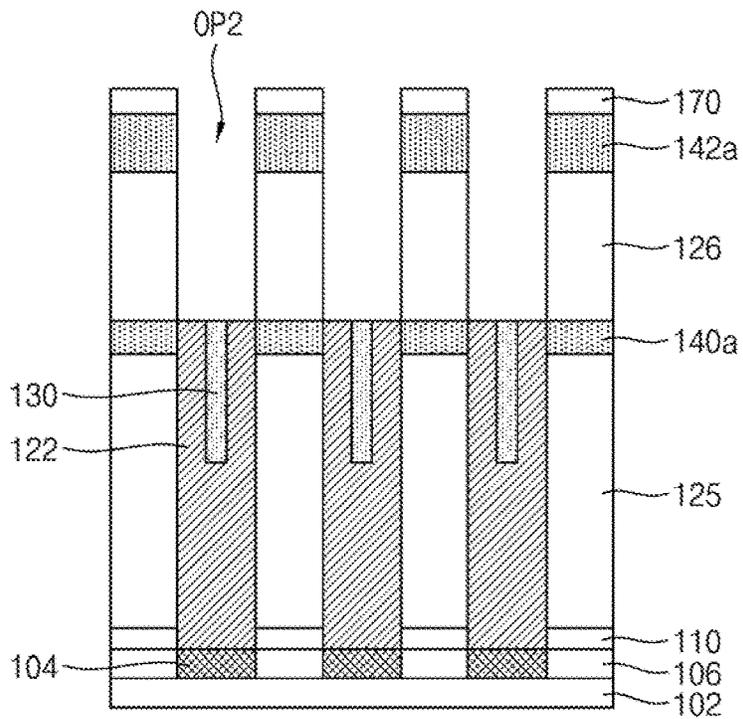


FIG. 8

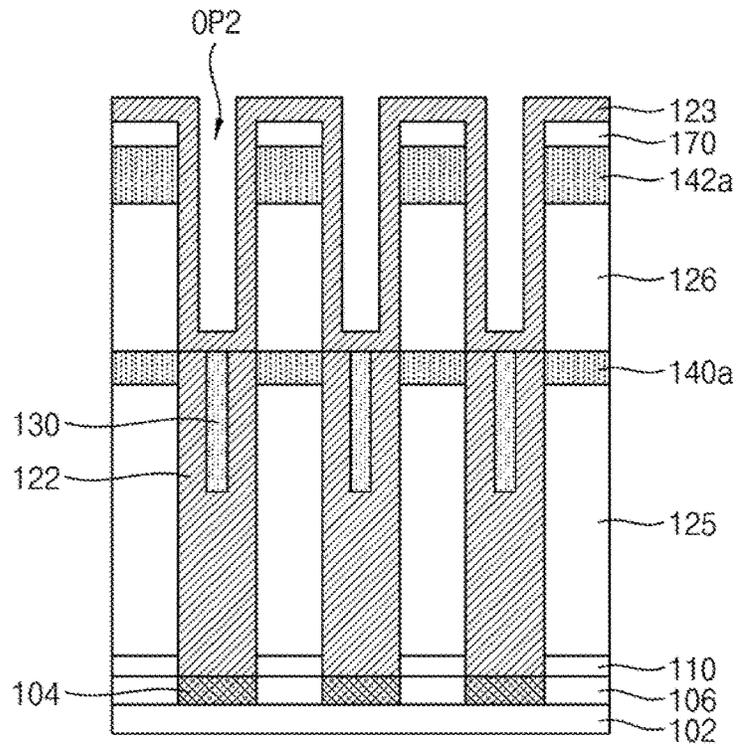


FIG. 9

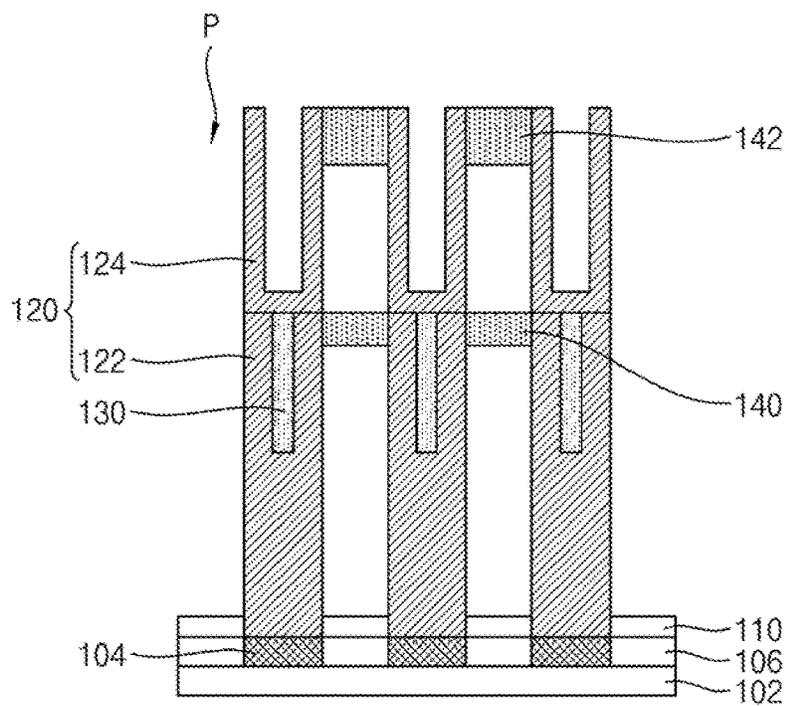


FIG. 10

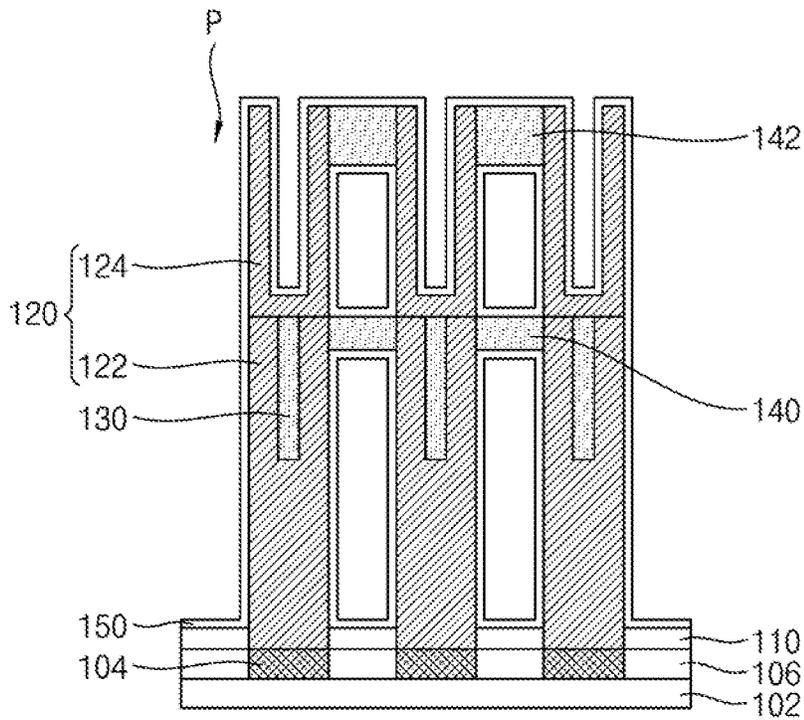


FIG. 11

200

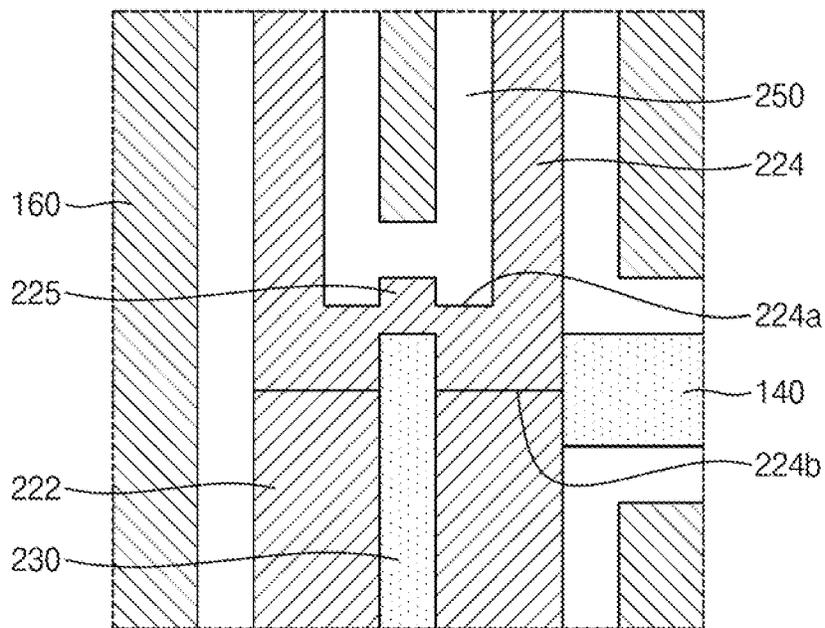


FIG. 12

300

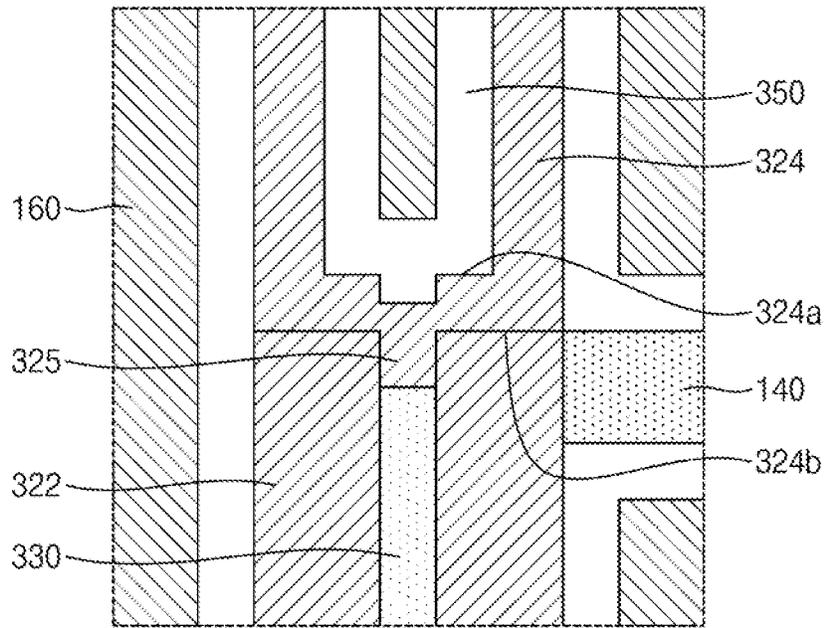


FIG. 13

400

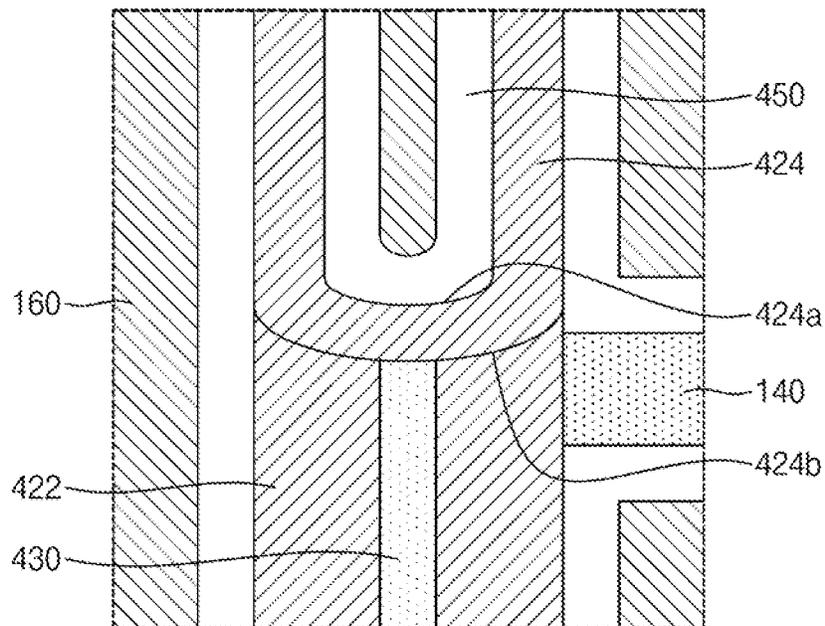


FIG. 14

500

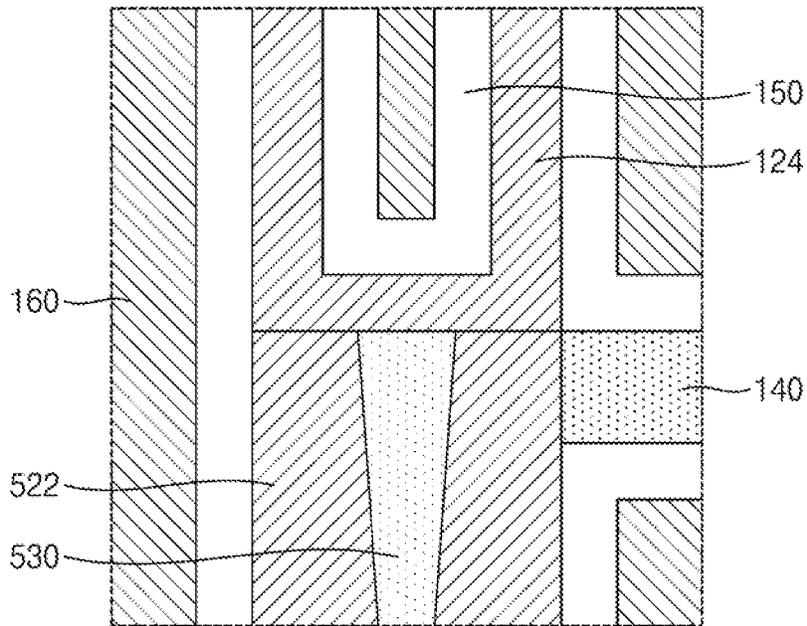


FIG. 15

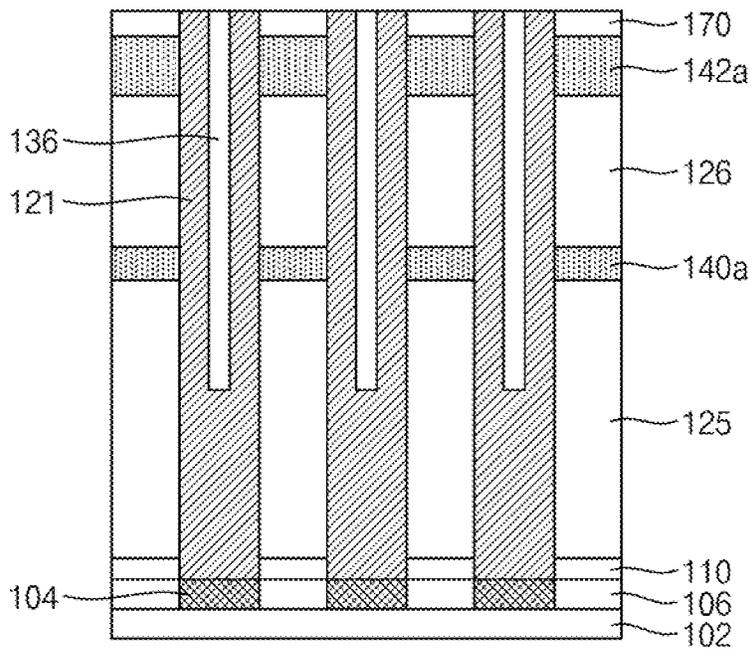


FIG. 16

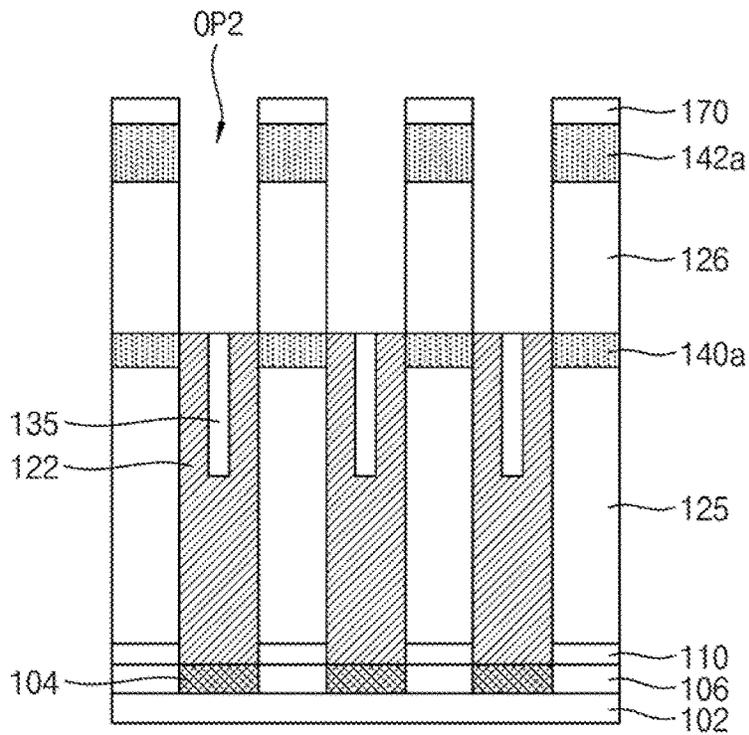


FIG. 17

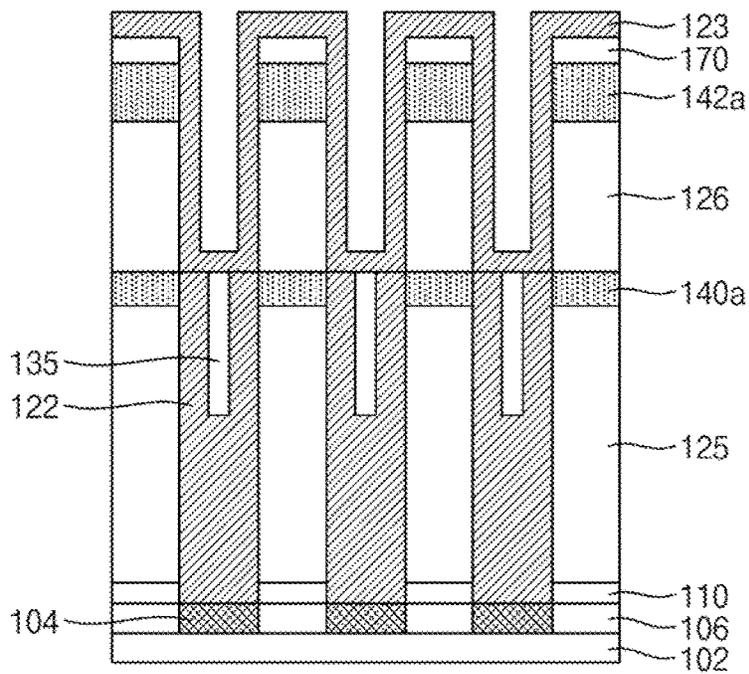
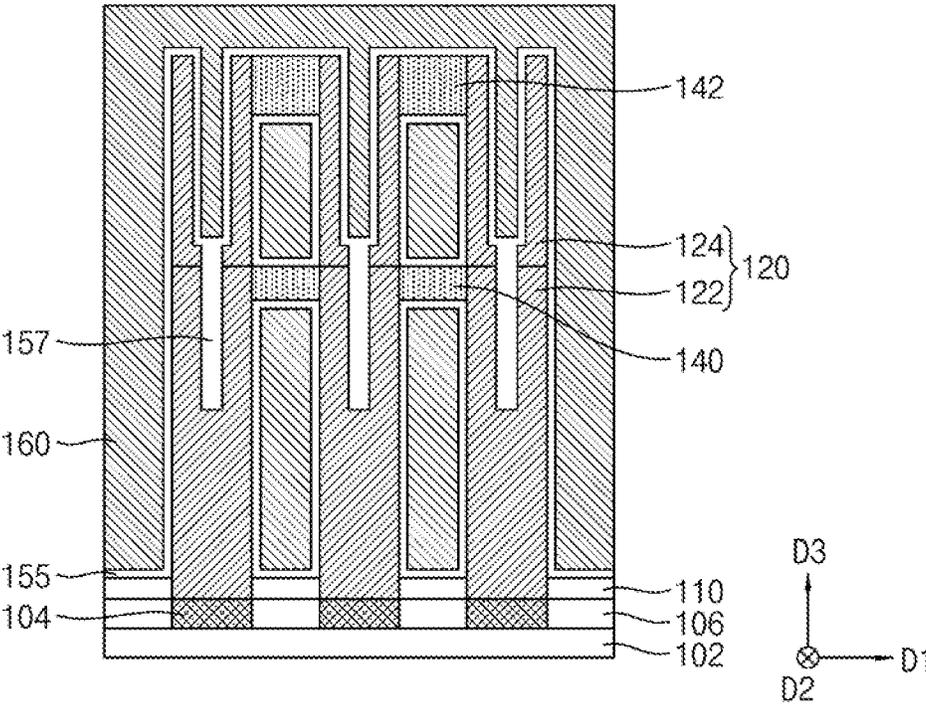


FIG. 20



SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE HAVING HYBRID CAPACITORS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/409,046 filed on May 10, 2019, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to Korean Patent Application No. 10-2018-0133649, filed on Nov. 2, 2018, the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.

1. TECHNICAL FIELD

Exemplary embodiments of the present inventive concept relate to a semiconductor device, and more particularly, to a semiconductor device having hybrid capacitors.

2. DISCUSSION OF THE RELATED ART

Currently, since compact and highly integrated semiconductor devices are being developed, miniaturization of capacitors of semiconductor devices is under development. For example, various structures have been attempted to increase an effective surface area of a lower electrode of a capacitor. For example, a structure of a one cylinder stack (OCS) or a hybrid structure in which an OCS and a pillar stack are combined has been proposed. However, in a pillar stack, a conductive material might not be fully filled and a seam may be generated therein.

SUMMARY

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, a semiconductor device includes: a plurality of lower electrode structures disposed on a substrate; a supporter pattern disposed between pairs of lower electrode structures of the plurality of lower electrode structures; a capacitor dielectric layer disposed on surfaces of each of the plurality of lower electrode structures and the supporter pattern; and an upper electrode disposed on the capacitor dielectric layer. The plurality of lower electrode structures includes a first lower electrode and a second lower electrode disposed on the first lower electrode and having a cylindrical shape. The first lower electrode has a pillar shape. The first lower electrode includes an insulating core. The insulating core is disposed in the first lower electrode, and an outer side surface of the first lower electrode and an outer side surface of the second lower electrode are coplanar.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, a semiconductor device includes: a plurality of lower electrode structures disposed on a substrate; a first supporter pattern disposed between pairs of lower electrode structures of the plurality of lower electrode structures; a second supporter pattern spaced apart from the first supporter pattern; a capacitor dielectric layer disposed on surfaces of each of the plurality of lower electrode structures and the first and second supporter patterns; and an upper electrode disposed on the capacitor dielectric layer. Each of the plurality of lower electrode structures includes a first lower electrode and a second lower electrode disposed on the first lower electrode. The first lower electrode includes an insulating core. The insulating core is disposed in the first lower electrode, and a side surface of the first supporter pattern and a side surface of the second supporter pattern are coplanar.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, a semiconductor device includes: a plurality of lower electrode structures disposed on a substrate; a supporter pattern disposed between pairs of lower electrode structures of the plurality of lower electrode structures; a capacitor dielectric layer disposed on surfaces of each of the plurality of lower electrode structures and the supporter pattern; and an upper electrode disposed on the capacitor dielectric layer. The lower electrode structure includes a first lower electrode and a second lower electrode disposed on the first lower electrode. The capacitor dielectric layer includes an embedded portion passing through the second lower electrode and extending to an inside of the first lower electrode, and an outer side surface of the first lower electrode and an outer side surface of the second lower electrode are coplanar.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, a semiconductor device includes: a substrate; a plurality of lower electrode structures disposed on the substrate, and including a plurality of first lower electrodes and a plurality of second lower electrodes disposed on the first lower electrodes, wherein each of the plurality of first lower electrodes includes an insulating core extending toward a lower surface of each of the plurality of first lower electrodes; a first supporter pattern disposed between the plurality of first lower electrodes; a second supporter pattern disposed between the plurality of second lower electrodes; a capacitor dielectric layer disposed on the plurality of second lower electrodes and the first and second supporter patterns; and an upper electrode disposed on the capacitor dielectric layer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete appreciation of the present disclosure and many of the attendant aspects thereof will be readily obtained as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken along line I-I' of FIG. 1 according to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept;

FIGS. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept;

FIGS. 11, 12, 13 and 14 are enlarged partial views of semiconductor devices according to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept; and

FIGS. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Exemplary embodiments of the present inventive concept will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive con-

cept. FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken along line I-I' of FIG. 1 according to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the semiconductor device 100 may include a substrate 102, a contact plug 104, a lower insulating layer 106, an etch stop film 110, lower electrode structures 120, an insulating core 130, a first supporter pattern 140, a second supporter pattern 142, a capacitor dielectric layer 150, and an upper electrode 160.

The substrate 102 may include a semiconductor material. For example, the substrate 102 may be a silicon substrate, a germanium substrate, a silicon germanium substrate, or a silicon-on-insulator (SOI) substrate. A plurality of word lines and bit lines which cross each other may be disposed on the substrate 102, and impurity regions may be disposed on the substrate 102.

The contact plug 104 and the lower insulating layer 106 may be disposed on the substrate 102. The contact plug 104 may be disposed (e.g., buried) in the lower insulating layer 106 and a plurality of contact plugs 104 may be provided. For example, the contact plug 104 may be at least partially surrounded by the insulating layer 106. An upper surface of the contact plug 104 may be positioned at the same level as an upper surface of the lower insulating layer 106. For example, the upper surface of the contact plug 104 and the upper surface of the lower insulating layer 106 may be coplanar. However, the present inventive concept is not limited thereto. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the upper surface of the contact plug 104 may be positioned at a lower level than the upper surface of the lower insulating layer 106. A width of the contact plug 104 may be smaller than or equal to a width of a lower surface of a first lower electrode 122. The contact plug 104 may be electrically connected to the first lower electrode 122. The lower insulating layer 106 may insulate the contact plugs 104 from each other to prevent the plurality of contact plugs 104 from being electrically connected to each other.

The contact plug 104 may include a conductive material. For example, the contact plug 104 may include a doped semiconductor material such as doped polysilicon, a metal-semiconductor compound such as WSi_2 , a metal nitride such as TiN or TaN, or a metal such as Ti, W, or Ta. The lower insulating layer 106 may include silicon oxide, silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, or a combination thereof.

The etch stop film 110 may be disposed on the lower insulating layer 106. The etch stop film 110 may prevent a plurality of first lower electrodes 122 from being electrically connected to each other. The etch stop film 110 may include silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, or a combination thereof. Further, the etch stop film 110 may prevent a wet etchant from flowing to the lower insulating layer 106 during a wet etching process, thereby preventing the lower insulating layer 106 from being etched.

A plurality of lower electrode structures 120 may be disposed on the contact plugs 104. Referring to FIG. 1, the lower electrode structures 120 may be disposed in a honeycomb structure in a plan view when viewed from above. For example, there may be a first row of lower electrode structures 120 extending in a first direction D1 and a second row of lower electrode structures 120 extending in the first direction D1 and adjacent to the first row in a second direction D2 crossing the first direction D1. The lower electrode structures 120 of the second row may be misaligned with the lower electrode structures 120 of the first row. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the lower electrode structures 120 may be spaced a predetermined distance from each other in the first direction

D1. Further, the lower electrode structures 120 may be arranged in the form of a zigzag in the second direction D2. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the lower electrode structures 120 may be disposed in a lattice pattern or another pattern. One through-hole pattern P may be disposed between, for example, three adjacent lower electrode structures 120 or between six adjacent lower electrode structures 120, and/or may be disposed in another type of pattern of lower electrode structures 120. For example, three lower electrode structures 120 may be disposed around the through-hole pattern P and may at least partially overlap the through-hole pattern P.

In this specification, the first direction D1 refers to a direction which extends parallel to a main surface of the substrate 102 and in which the lower electrode structures 120 shown in FIG. 2 are arranged. The second direction D2 refers to a direction which is parallel to the main surface of the substrate 102 and is substantially perpendicular to the first direction D1. A third direction D3 refers to a direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction D1 and the second direction D2.

Each lower electrode structure 120 may include the first lower electrode 122 and a second lower electrode 124 disposed on the first lower electrode 122. A lower electrode structure 120 may have a hybrid form including electrodes of different shapes. For example, the first lower electrode 122 may have a pillar shape and the second lower electrode 124 may have a cylindrical shape. The first lower electrode 122 and the second lower electrode 124 might not be misaligned. In other words, the first lower electrode 122 and the second lower electrode 124 may be aligned. For example, an outer side surface of the first lower electrode 122 and an outer side surface of the second lower electrode 124 may be positioned to be coplanar.

The first lower electrode 122 may be disposed on the contact plug 104. The first lower electrode 122 may have a pillar shape and the outer side surface thereof may be covered by the capacitor dielectric layer 150. The first lower electrode 122 may include the insulating core 130 disposed therein. The second lower electrode 124 may be disposed on the first lower electrode 122. The second lower electrode 124 may have a cylindrical shape, and the outer side surface and an inner side surface of the second lower electrode 124 may be covered by the capacitor dielectric layer 150. In FIG. 2, a height of the first lower electrode 122 is shown as being greater than a height of the second lower electrode 124 in the third direction D3, but the present inventive concept is not limited thereto. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the height of the second lower electrode 124 may be greater than the height of the first lower electrode 122.

The first lower electrode 122 and the second lower electrode 124 may be electrically connected to the contact plug 104 and may include a metal, such as Ti, W, Ni, or Co, or a metal nitride, such as TiN, TiSiN, TiAlN, TaN, TaSiN, WN, and/or the like. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the first lower electrode 122 and the second lower electrode 124 may include TiN.

The insulating core 130 may be disposed in an inside of the first lower electrode 122. The insulating core 130 may be positioned at a central portion of the first lower electrode 122 having, for example, a circular shape when viewed from above. However, the present inventive concept is not limited thereto. For example, the insulating core 130 may have a rectangular shape. The insulating core 130 may have a predetermined height, an upper end of the insulating core 130 may be in contact with a lower surface of the second

lower electrode **124**, and a lower end of the insulating core **130** may be positioned at a higher level than the lower surface of the first lower electrode **122**. In FIG. 2, the upper end of the insulating core **130** is shown as being positioned at the same level as an upper surface of the first lower electrode **122**, but the present inventive concept is not limited thereto. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the upper end of the insulating core **130** may be positioned at a higher or lower level than the upper surface of the first lower electrode **122**. The insulating core **130** may prevent the contact plug **104** from being exposed during an etching process. Further, the insulating core **130** may prevent a decrease in performance of capacitors and/or generation of a leakage current due to a conductive material of the lower electrode structure **120**, and prevent degradation of the capacitors. The insulating core **130** may include an insulating material, such as amorphous silicon, an amorphous carbon layer (ACL), or silicon oxide (SiO₂).

The first supporter pattern **140** and the second supporter pattern **142** may be disposed between the lower electrode structures **120**. The first supporter pattern **140** and the second supporter pattern **142** may connect the lower electrode structures **120** to each other. For example, the first supporter pattern **140** and the second supporter pattern **142** may provide support to the lower electrode structures **120**. For example, the first supporter pattern **140** may support the first lower electrodes **122**, and the second supporter pattern **142** may support the second lower electrodes **124**. A thickness of the second supporter pattern **142** in the third direction D3 may be greater than a thickness of the first supporter pattern **140** in the third direction D3. The first supporter pattern **140** and the second supporter pattern **142** may have the same shape when viewed from above. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, a side surface of the first supporter pattern **140**, which is in contact with the first lower electrode **122**, and a side surface of the second supporter pattern **142**, which is in contact with the second lower electrode **124**, may be coplanar.

As shown in FIG. 1, the first supporter pattern **140** and the second supporter pattern **142** may have a mesh shape in which through-hole patterns P are formed on a plate in a predetermined pattern. In FIG. 2, two supporter patterns are shown, but the present inventive concept is not limited thereto, and one supporter pattern or three or more supporter patterns may be disposed. For example, the first supporter pattern **140** and the second supporter pattern **142** may include an insulating material and may include, for example, silicon nitride and/or silicon oxynitride.

The capacitor dielectric layer **150** may be disposed between the lower electrode structure **120** and the upper electrode **160**. For example, the capacitor dielectric layer **150** may be conformally disposed on surfaces of the etch stop film **110**, the lower electrode structure **120**, the first supporter pattern **140**, and the second supporter pattern **142**. For example, the capacitor dielectric layer **150** may include a metal oxide, such as HfO₂, ZrO₂, Al₂O₃, La₂O₃, Ta₂O₃, or TiO₂, a dielectric material having a perovskite structure, such as SrTiO₃ (STO), BaTiO₃, lead zirconate titanate (PZT), or lanthanum-doped lead zirconate titanate (PLZT), or a combination thereof.

The upper electrode **160** may be disposed on the capacitor dielectric layer **150**. For example, the upper electrode **160** may include a metal, such as Ti, W, Ni, or Co, or a metal nitride, such as TiN, TiSiN, TiAlN, TaN, TaSiN, WN, and/or the like. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, like the first lower electrode **122** and the second lower electrode **124**, the upper electrode **160** may

include TiN. The first lower electrode **122**, the second lower electrode **124**, the capacitor dielectric layer **150**, and the upper electrode **160** may function as capacitors.

FIGS. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 3, a lower insulating layer **106** may be disposed on a substrate **102**. In addition, contact plugs **104** are disposed in the lower insulating layer **106**. An etch stop film **110**, a first mold layer **125**, a first supporter layer **140a**, a second mold layer **126**, a second supporter layer **142a**, a first mask pattern **170**, and a second mask pattern **172** may be sequentially stacked on the contact plugs **104** and the lower insulating layer **106**.

The etch stop film **110** may include a material having an etch selectivity with respect to the first mold layer **125** and the second mold layer **126**. For example, the etch stop film **110** may include silicon nitride, silicon oxynitride, or a combination thereof.

The first mold layer **125** and the second mold layer **126** may include a material having an etch selectivity with respect to the first supporter layer **140a** and the second supporter layer **142a**. For example, the first mold layer **125** and the second mold layer **126** may include silicon oxide. For example, the first supporter layer **140a** and the second supporter layer **142a** may include silicon nitride. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, a thickness of the second supporter layer **142a** may be greater than a thickness of the first supporter layer **140a**. However, the present inventive concept is not limited thereto.

A portion of the second supporter layer **142a** may be exposed by the first mask pattern **170** and the second mask pattern **172**. A region in which a lower electrode structure **120** is disposed may be formed by the first mask pattern **170** and the second mask pattern **172**. For example, the first mask pattern **170** may include amorphous carbon and/or polysilicon, and the second mask pattern **172** may include a photosensitive material.

Referring to FIG. 4, openings OP1 may be formed along the first mask pattern **170** and the second mask pattern **172**. The openings OP1 may be formed to pass through the etch stop film **110**, the first mold layer **125**, the first supporter layer **140a**, the second mold layer **126**, and the second supporter layer **142a**. The opening OP may have a constant width with respect to the first direction D1. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the opening OP1 may be formed with a tapered shape extending in a downward direction from the second supporter layer **142a** toward the substrate **102**. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the opening OP1 may be formed using a dry etching process. The second supporter layer **142a**, the second mold layer **126**, the first supporter layer **140a**, and the first mold layer **125** are sequentially anisotropically etched using a dry etching process, and then the etch stop film **110** may be partially removed such that the contact plugs **104** are exposed.

Referring to FIG. 5, a first conductive layer **121** may be deposited in the openings OP1, and may cover side surfaces and lower surfaces of the openings OP1 and an upper surface of the second mask pattern **172**. For example, the first conductive layer **121** may be formed by a process such as a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) process, an atomic layer deposition (ALD) process, a plasma-enhanced ALD (PEALD) process, or the like. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the first conductive layer **121** may be deposited by an ALD process. The first con-

ductive layer **121** might not fully fill the openings **OPI** and may include seams **S** therein. The seam **S** may be formed to extend from an upper end of the opening **OPI** by a predetermined height. A lower end of the seam **S** may be positioned at a higher level than an upper surface of the contact plug **104**. For example, the seam **S** might not reach the upper surface of the contact plug **104**. For example, the first conductive layer **121** may include a metal, such as Ti, W, Ni, or Co, or a metal nitride, such as TiN, TiSiN, TiAlN, TaN, TaSiN, WN, and/or the like.

Referring to FIG. 6, an insulating core **131** may be disposed in the seam **S**. For example, the insulating core **131** may fill the inside of the seam **S** and may be formed by a process such as a CVD process, an ALD process, or the like. The insulating core **131** may have a constant width with respect to the first direction **D1**. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the insulating core **131** may be formed to have a tapered shape extending in a downward direction.

After the insulating core **131** fills the seam **S**, a planarization process may be performed. The second mask pattern **172** may be removed by the planarization process. An upper surface of the first conductive layer **121** may be positioned at substantially the same level as an upper end of the insulating core **131**. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the planarization process may be omitted. For example, the insulating core **131** may include an insulating material, such as amorphous silicon, an ACL, and/or silicon oxide (SiO₂).

Referring to FIG. 7, the first conductive layer **121** and the insulating core **131** may be partially removed by a recess process so that a first lower electrode **122** and an insulating core **130** may be formed. An opening **OP2** may be formed by the removal of the first conductive layer **121** and the insulating core **131**. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the opening **OP2** may be formed by an etch-back process. Since the insulating core **130** is disposed in the inside of the seam **S**, a portion of the first conductive layer **121** may be etched during the etch-back process to prevent the contact plug **104** from being exposed. For example, the first conductive layer **121** may be etched until the first supporter layer **140a** is reached.

In FIG. 7, an upper surface of the first lower electrode **122** and the upper end of the insulating core **130** are shown as being positioned at the same level as an upper surface of the first supporter layer **140a**, but the present inventive concept is not limited thereto. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the upper surface of the first lower electrode **122** and/or the upper end of the insulating core **130** may be positioned at a higher or lower level than the upper surface of the first supporter layer **140a**.

Referring to FIG. 8, a second conductive layer **123** may be deposited in the openings **OP2**. For example, the second conductive layer **123** may cover side surfaces and lower surfaces of the openings **OP2** and an upper surface of the first mask pattern **170**. For example, the second conductive layer **123** may be formed by a process such as a CVD process, an ALD process, or the like. The second conductive layer **123** may have a relatively smaller thickness than that of the first lower electrode **122** and/or the first conductive layer **121**. The second conductive layer **123** may include the same material as that of the first lower electrode **122**. For example, the second conductive layer **123** and the first lower electrode **122** may include TiN.

Referring to FIG. 9, the first supporter layer **140a** and the second supporter layer **142a** may be patterned and the first mold layer **125** and the second mold layer **126** may be

removed. A portion of the second supporter layer **142a** may be removed first, and second supporter patterns **142** may be formed. For example, the portions of the second supporter layer **142a** that are removed may correspond to the through-hole pattern **P** as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. A portion of the second mold layer **126** may be exposed by the second supporter patterns **142** and at least the exposed portions of the second mold layer **126** may be removed. For example, the second mold layer **126** may be entirely removed by a wet etching process. For example, a wet etchant may flow between the second supporter patterns **142** to remove the second mold layer **126**. During the etching process of the second mold layer **126**, the second lower electrode **124**, the first supporter layer **140a**, and the second supporter layer **142a**, which have an etch selectivity with respect to the second mold layer **126**, might not be removed. After the second mold layer **126** is entirely removed, the second supporter pattern **142** may connect and support the adjacent second lower electrodes **124** to each other so that the second lower electrodes **124** do not collapse. The first supporter layer **140a** which is exposed by removing the second mold layer **126** may be patterned by an anisotropic etching process. The first supporter layer **140a** may be partially removed and a first supporter pattern **140** may be formed. For example, the portions of the first supporter layer **140a** that are removed may correspond to the through-hole pattern **P** as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. A shape of the first supporter pattern **140** may correspond to a shape of the second supporter pattern **142**. A portion of the first mold layer **125** may be exposed by the first supporter pattern **140** and at least the exposed portions of the first mold layer **125** may be removed. For example, the first mold layer **125** may be entirely removed by a wet etching process. The etch stop film **110**, the first lower electrode **122**, the second lower electrode **124**, the first supporter pattern **140**, and the second supporter pattern **142**, which have an etch selectivity with respect to the first mold layer **125**, might not be removed. After the first mold layer **125** is entirely removed, the first supporter pattern **140** may connect the first lower electrodes **122** to each other so that the first lower electrodes **122** do not collapse. For example, the first supporter pattern **140** supports the first lower electrodes **122**. The second supporter pattern **142** may be partially removed by the above-described etching process and a through-hole pattern **P** may be formed. In addition, the same through-hole pattern **P** as the second supporter pattern **142** may be formed in the first supporter pattern **140**.

Referring to FIG. 10, a capacitor dielectric layer **150** may be deposited on a surface of the resultant of FIG. 9. For example, the capacitor dielectric layer **150** may be conformally formed along surfaces of the etch stop film **110**, the first lower electrode **122**, the second lower electrode **124**, the first supporter pattern **140**, and the second supporter pattern **142**.

For example, the capacitor dielectric layer **150** may include a metal oxide, such as HfO₂, ZrO₂, Al₂O₃, La₂O₃, Ta₂O₃, or TiO₂, a dielectric material of a perovskite structure, such as STO, BaTiO₃, PZT, or PLZT, or a combination thereof. The capacitor dielectric layer **150** may be formed by a process such as a CVD process, an ALD process, or the like.

Referring to FIG. 2, an upper electrode **160** may be disposed on a surface of the resultant of FIG. 10. For example, the upper electrode **160** may be formed to cover the capacitor dielectric layer **150**. The upper electrode **160** may at least partially fill a space between the lower electrode structures **120**, an inside of the second lower electrode **124**,

and a space between the first supporter pattern **140** and the second supporter pattern **142**. The lower electrode structure **120**, the capacitor dielectric layer **150**, and the upper electrode **160** may function as capacitors.

The upper electrode **160** may include the same material as that of the first lower electrode **122** and the second lower electrode **124**. For example, the upper electrode **160** may include TiN. The upper electrode **160** may be formed by a process such as a CVD process, an ALD process, or the like.

As shown in FIGS. **4** and **8**, since the first lower electrode **122** and the second lower electrode **124** are disposed in the opening **OP1** formed by etching the first mold layer **125**, the first supporter layer **140a**, the second mold layer **126**, and the second supporter layer **142a** during a single process, the first lower electrode **122** and the second lower electrode **124** may be aligned. For example, an outer side surface of the first lower electrode **122** and an outer side surface of the second lower electrode **124** may be coplanar.

As shown in FIGS. **5** and **6**, since the insulating core **130** fills the seam **S** inside the first conductive layer **121**, a portion of the first conductive layer **121** may be etched in a subsequent etching process to prevent the contact plug **104** from being exposed. Further, the insulating core **130** may remain inside the first lower electrode **122** so that leakage current of capacitors may be prevented.

FIGS. **11**, **12**, **13** and **14** are enlarged partial views of semiconductor devices according to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept. FIGS. **11** to **14** each correspond to a region **R** of the semiconductor device shown in FIG. **2**.

Referring to FIG. **11**, a semiconductor device **200** may include a first lower electrode **222**, a second lower electrode **224**, an insulating core **230**, and a capacitor dielectric layer **250**. As shown in FIG. **7**, an upper surface of the first lower electrode **222** and an upper end of the insulating core **130** may be positioned at the same level in an etch-back process of the first conductive layer **121** and the insulating core **131**. However, in an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the upper surface of the first lower electrode **222** may be positioned at a lower level than the upper end of the insulating core **230** during the etch-back process, as shown in FIG. **11**. An upper surface of the first supporter pattern **140** is shown as being positioned at a higher level than the upper surface of the first lower electrode **222**, but the present inventive concept is not limited thereto. After the etch-back process, the second lower electrode **224** may be conformally formed on the first lower electrode **222** and the insulating core **230**.

The second lower electrode **224** having a cylindrical shape may include a protrusion **225** protruding upward from an inner lower surface **224a** thereof. Correspondingly, an outer lower surface **224b** of the second lower electrode **224** may have a concave shape in an upward direction. The protrusion **225** may overlap the insulating core **230**. For example, the protrusion **225** may be positioned on the insulating core **230**. As shown in FIG. **10**, the capacitor dielectric layer **250** may be conformally formed along surfaces of the etch stop film **110**, the first lower electrode **222**, the second lower electrode **224**, the first supporter pattern **140**, and the second supporter pattern **142**. A portion of the capacitor dielectric layer **250**, which is disposed in the second lower electrode **224**, may be formed to have a concave shape in an upward.

Referring to FIG. **12**, a semiconductor device **300** may include a first lower electrode **322**, a second lower electrode **324**, an insulating core **330**, and a capacitor dielectric layer **350**. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive

concept, an upper surface of the first lower electrode **322** may be positioned at a higher level than an upper end of the insulating core **330** during an etch-back process. An upper surface of the first supporter pattern **140** is shown as being positioned at a higher level than the upper end of the insulating core **330**, but the present inventive concept is not limited thereto. After the etch-back process, the second lower electrode **324** may be conformally formed on the first lower electrode **322** and the insulating core **330**.

The second lower electrode **324** may include a protrusion **325** protruding downward from an outer lower surface **324b** thereof. Correspondingly, an inner lower surface **324a** of the second lower electrode **324** may have a concave shape extending downward. The protrusion **325** may be positioned on the insulating core **330**. The capacitor dielectric layer **350** may be conformally formed along surfaces of the etch stop film **110**, the first lower electrode **322**, the second lower electrode **324**, the first supporter pattern **140**, and the second supporter pattern **142**. A portion of the capacitor dielectric layer **350**, which is disposed in the second lower electrode **324**, may be formed to have a convex shape in a downward direction. For example, the capacitor dielectric layer **350** may have a protrusion corresponding to the protrusion **325** of the outer lower surface **324b**.

Referring to FIG. **13**, a semiconductor device **400** may include a first lower electrode **422**, a second lower electrode **424**, an insulating core **430**, and a capacitor dielectric layer **450**. The first lower electrode **422** and the insulating core **430** may be etched to have a convex shape extending (or, e.g., protruding) downward during an etch-back process. For example, an upper surface of the first lower electrode **422** and an upper surface of the insulating core **430** may have a convex shape extending downward. After the etch-back process, the second lower electrode **424** may be conformally formed on the first lower electrode **422** and the insulating core **430**. An inner lower surface **424a** and an outer lower surface **424b** of the second lower electrode **424** may be formed to have a convex shape extending downward. Further, the capacitor dielectric layer **450** disposed on the inner lower surface **424a** of the second lower electrode **424** may include a convex portion extending downward.

Referring to FIG. **14**, a semiconductor device **500** may include a first lower electrode **522** and an insulating core **530**. A thickness of the first lower electrode **522** may decrease in a downward direction thereof and a width of the insulating core **530** may decrease in the downward direction thereof. When the first conductive layer **121** is un-conformally deposited, a width of a seam **S** might not be uniform. For example, the width of the seam **S** may be formed to be narrow at an upper and/or lower end, or may decrease in a downward direction thereof. The insulating core **530** which fills an inside of the seam **S** may vary according to a shape of the seam **S**. In an etching process in which an opening **OP1** is formed to pass through the first mold layer **125** and the second mold layer **126**, a width of the opening **OP1** may decrease in a downward direction thereof. A diameter of an outer circumferential surface of the first lower electrode **522** which fills the opening **OP** may decrease in a downward direction thereof.

FIGS. **15**, **16**, **17**, **18**, **19** and **20** are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept.

Referring to FIGS. **6** and **15**, a sacrificial layer **136** may fill a seam **S** inside a first conductive layer **121**. The sacrificial layer **136** may include an insulating material such as silicon oxide, **ACL**, and/or the like. The sacrificial layer

136 may be formed by a process such as a CVD process, an ALD process, or the like. After the sacrificial layer **136** fills the seam **S**, a planarization process may be performed. A second mask pattern **172** may be removed by the above process.

Referring to FIGS. **7** and **16**, the first conductive layer **121** may be partially removed by a recess process so that a first lower electrode **122** may be formed. The sacrificial layer **136** may also be partially removed so that an opening **OP2** may be formed. Since the sacrificial layer **135** is disposed inside the seam **S**, a portion of the first conductive layer **121** may be etched during an etching process of the first conductive layer **121** to prevent a contact plug **104** from being exposed. For example, the first conductive layer **121** may be etched until the first supporter layer **140a** is reached.

Referring to FIGS. **8** and **17**, a second conductive layer **123** may be deposited in the opening **OP2** by a process such as CVD, ALD, or the like. The second conductive layer **123** may have a relatively smaller thickness than that of the first lower electrode **122** and/or the first conductive layer **121**. The second conductive layer **123** may include the same material as that of the first lower electrode **122**.

Referring to FIG. **18**, a portion of the second conductive layer **123** and the sacrificial layer **135** may be removed. A portion of the second conductive layer **123**, which is in contact with the first lower electrode **122**, may be partially removed by an etching process to expose the sacrificial layer **135**. A planarization process may be performed before the etching process and a first mask pattern **170** may be removed. The exposed sacrificial layer **135** may be removed by a wet etching process. For example, the exposed sacrificial layer **135** may be entirely removed. The first lower electrode **122**, a second lower electrode **124**, and a second supporter pattern **142**, which have an etch selectivity with respect to the sacrificial layer **135**, might not be removed. In FIG. **18**, the second lower electrode **124** is shown as having a shape having a step formed therein, but the present inventive concept is not limited thereto. In an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, the second lower electrode **124** may have an opening with a constant inner diameter, and the opening at a lower surface of the second lower electrode **124** may have an inner diameter that may be different from an inner diameter of an opening of the first lower electrode **122** at an upper surface of the first lower electrode **122**.

Referring to FIGS. **9**, **10**, and **19**, through-holes patterned in a second supporter layer **142a** may be formed. A second mold layer **126**, a first supporter layer **140a**, and a first mold layer **125** may be anisotropically etched along the through-hole patterns. Thereafter, the first mold layer **125** and the second mold layer **126** may be entirely removed by a wet etching process, and the first lower electrode **122**, the second lower electrode **124**, the first supporter pattern **140**, and the second supporter pattern **142**, which have an etch selectivity with respect to the first mold layer **125** and the second mold layer **126**, might not be removed. A capacitor dielectric layer **155** may be conformally formed along surfaces of the etch stop film **110**, the first lower electrode **122**, the second lower electrode **124**, the first supporter pattern **140**, and the second supporter pattern **142**. The capacitor dielectric layer **155** may include an embedded portion **157**. The embedded portion **157** may vertically pass through the second lower electrode **124** from an inner lower surface of the second lower electrode **124** to extend to an inside of the first lower electrode **122**. The embedded portion **157** may at least partially fill the seam **S** of the first lower electrode **122**. The embedded portion **157** might not function as a capacitor, but

may be formed inside the first lower electrode **122** so that leakage current of capacitors may be prevented.

Referring to FIGS. **2** and **20**, an upper electrode **160** may be disposed on the resultant of FIG. **19**. For example, the upper electrode **160** may be formed to cover the capacitor dielectric layer **155**. The upper electrode **160** may at least partially fill a space between the lower electrode structures **120**, the inside of the second lower electrode **124**, and a space between the first supporter pattern **140** and the second supporter pattern **142**.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present inventive concept, in a semiconductor device, an insulating core is formed inside a first lower electrode disposed below a second lower electrode, and thus, exposure of a contact plug can be prevented during an etching process and leakage current and degradation of capacitors can be prevented.

Exemplary embodiments of the present inventive concept are directed to a semiconductor device for preventing leakage current and degradation of capacitors.

While the present inventive concept has been described with reference to exemplary embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in form and details may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present inventive concept.

What is claimed is:

1. A semiconductor device comprising:

a substrate;

a plurality of lower electrode structures disposed on the substrate, each of the plurality of lower electrode structures including a first lower electrode and a second lower electrode that is disposed on the first lower electrode;

a capacitor dielectric layer disposed on the plurality of lower electrode structures; and

an upper electrode disposed on the capacitor dielectric layer,

wherein the first lower electrode includes a lower portion having a pillar shape and an upper portion continuously extending from a first region of the lower portion in a vertical direction,

a filling pattern is on and in contact with a second region of the lower portion of the first lower electrode,

the second lower electrode includes a recess that is adjacent to a top surface of the second lower electrode,

a bottom surface of the second lower electrode contacts a top surface of the filling pattern and a top surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode,

a portion of the capacitor dielectric layer and a portion of the upper electrode are disposed in the recess of the second lower electrode,

the vertical direction is perpendicular to an upper surface of the substrate,

the upper portion of the first lower electrode has an inner side surface contacting a side surface of the filling pattern and an outer side surface contacting the capacitor dielectric layer, and

a first distance between a bottom surface of the lower portion of the first lower electrode and a bottom surface of the filling pattern is greater than a second distance between the inner side surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode and an external side surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode.

2. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the top surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode is substantially coplanar with the top surface of the filling pattern.

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3. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein a bottom surface of the filling pattern is closer to the top surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode than to a bottom surface of the lower portion of the first lower electrode.

4. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the filling pattern includes amorphous silicon, amorphous carbon layer (ACL) and/or silicon oxide.

5. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein a diameter of the bottom surface of the second lower electrode is about 50 nm or less.

6. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the second lower electrode includes a protruding portion that is disposed on an inner bottom surface of the second lower electrode and on the filling pattern.

7. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the top surface of the filling pattern is higher than the top surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode.

8. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the second lower electrode includes a protrusion portion that is disposed on an outer bottom surface of the second lower electrode and on the filling pattern, and

the protrusion portion of the second lower electrode extends in a hole defining by the upper portion of the first lower electrode.

9. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the top surface of the filling pattern is lower than the top surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode.

10. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the top surface of the first lower electrode, the bottom surface of the second lower electrode and the top surface of the filling pattern are concave.

11. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein a width of the top surface of the filling pattern is greater than a width of a bottom surface of the filling pattern.

12. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein an outer side surface of the first lower electrode is substantially coplanar with an outer side surface of the second lower electrode.

13. The semiconductor device of claim 1, further comprising a first supporter contacting the first lower electrode and including a first opening that exposes at least three of the plurality of lower electrode structures,

wherein a top surface of the first supporter is substantially coplanar with at least one of the top surface of the first lower electrode and the top surface of the filling pattern.

14. The semiconductor device of claim 13, further comprising a second supporter that is disposed on the first supporter, that contacts the second lower electrode and that includes a second opening which exposes at least three of the plurality of lower electrode structures,

wherein a top surface of the second supporter is substantially coplanar with the top surface of the second lower electrode.

15. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the capacitor dielectric layer does not contact the filling pattern.

16. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the filling pattern includes an insulating material.

17. A semiconductor device comprising:

a substrate;

a plurality of lower electrode structures disposed on the substrate, each of the plurality of lower electrode structures including a first lower electrode and a second lower electrode that is disposed on the first lower electrode;

a first supporter disposed on the substrate and contacting the first lower electrode;

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a second supporter disposed on the first supporter and contacting the second lower electrode;

a capacitor dielectric layer disposed on the plurality of lower electrode structures; and

an upper electrode disposed on the capacitor dielectric layer,

wherein the first lower electrode includes a lower portion having a pillar shape and an upper portion continuously extending from a first region of the lower portion in a vertical direction,

a filling pattern is on and in contact with a second region of the lower portion of the first lower electrode,

the second lower electrode includes a recess that is adjacent to a top surface of the second lower electrode,

a bottom surface of the second lower electrode contacts a top surface of the filling pattern and a top surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode,

a portion of the capacitor dielectric layer and a portion of the upper electrode are disposed in the recess of the second lower electrode,

the top surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode is substantially coplanar with at least one of a top surface of the first supporter and the top surface of the filling pattern,

the top surface of the second lower electrode is substantially coplanar with a top surface of the second supporter,

the vertical direction is perpendicular to an upper surface of the substrate,

the upper portion of the first lower electrode has an inner side surface contacting a side surface of the filling pattern and an outer side surface contacting the capacitor dielectric layer, and

a first distance between a bottom surface of the lower portion of the first lower electrode and a bottom surface of the filling pattern is greater than a second distance between the inner side surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode and the outer side surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode.

18. The semiconductor device of claim 17, wherein a bottom surface of the filling pattern is closer to the top surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode than to a bottom surface of the lower portion of the first lower electrode.

19. The semiconductor device of claim 17, wherein the filling pattern includes an insulating material.

20. A semiconductor device comprising:

a substrate;

a lower insulating layer disposed on the substrate and including a through hole;

a contact plug disposed in the through hole of the lower insulating layer;

an upper insulating layer disposed on the lower insulating layer;

a lower electrode structure passing through the upper insulating layer and contacting the contact plug, the lower electrode structure including a first lower electrode and a second lower electrode that is disposed on the first lower electrode;

a first supporter disposed on the substrate and contacting the first lower electrode;

a second supporter disposed on the first supporter and contacting the second lower electrode;

a capacitor dielectric layer disposed on the lower electrode structure; and

an upper electrode disposed on the capacitor dielectric layer,

wherein the first lower electrode includes a lower portion having a pillar shape and an upper portion continuously extending from a first region of the lower portion in a vertical direction,

a filling pattern is on and in contact with a second region 5 of the lower portion of the first lower electrode and includes an insulating material,

the second lower electrode includes a recess that is adjacent to a top surface of the second lower electrode, a bottom surface of the second lower electrode contacts a 10 top surface of the filling pattern and a top surface of the first lower electrode,

a portion of the capacitor dielectric layer and a portion of the upper electrode are disposed in the recess of the 15 second lower electrode,

the top surface of the first lower electrode is substantially coplanar with a top surface of the first supporter and the top surface of the filling pattern,

the filling pattern does not contact the capacitor dielectric 20 layer,

the vertical direction is perpendicular to an upper surface of the substrate,

the upper portion of the first lower electrode has an inner side surface contacting a side surface of the filling pattern and an outer side surface contacting the capaci- 25 tor dielectric layer, and

a first distance between a bottom surface of the lower portion of the first lower electrode and a bottom surface of the filling pattern is greater than a second distance 30 between the inner side surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode and the outer side surface of the upper portion of the first lower electrode.

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